

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

EVANS, Lane (Democrat)
Representative, 17th District, Illinois
Elected 1982 to 98th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Rock Island, Illinois - 4 August 1951
Home: Rock Island, Illinois
Marital status: Single
Religion: Roman Catholic
Military: U.S. Marine Corps, 1969-71
Education: Augustana College, BA, 1974; Georgetown, JD, 1978
Profession: Attorney

Political: Succeeded Rep Tom Railsback (R) who was defeated in the GOP primary.
Reelected in 2000 with 55% of the vote and in 2002 with 62%.

Rep Evans, a liberal, has a dovish record on defense but is active on veterans' issues. A Vietnam-era veteran, Evans was one of the first Members to speak out about health problems experienced by Persian Gulf veterans and has taken the lead in seeking benefits and full disclosure about exposures during their service. He is the leading voice on the HASC in the effort to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines. He urged DoD to use alternatives to landmines, asked to end mine use and join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, and establish an inter-agency group between Dept of State, HHS, Education and VA to expand mine action programs.

During the 107th, Evans sponsored a number of bills in support of veterans and military personnel. He introduced HR 1406 to improve presumptive compensation benefits for vets with ill-defined illnesses resulting from the Gulf War. He also sponsored HR 2095 to provide uniformity in fees charged qualifying members of the Reserve and active duty vets for home loans guaranteed by the Sec of Vet Affairs. A vocal advocate of the Montgomery GI Bill, he sought to improve benefits under the GI Bill by introducing HR 320, 21st Century GI Bill Enhancement Act. Said President Bush's FY02 budget provided inadequate funding for veterans and suggested that veterans would pay the price of the tax cuts pushed by the administration. (8May01) He favored the legislation to expedite the construction of the WWII memorial. Objected to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR). Joined 4 other Members in protesting the Sec/Army's decision to push ahead with expanded privatization efforts at depots and arsenals.

Additional: Revealed May98 that he has been afflicted with Parkinson's disease since 1995. Co-chairman, Vietnam Era Veterans Caucus and Member, Guard and Reserve Components Caucus

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Readiness
VETERANS AFFAIRS -- Ranking Member